

# Idaho Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning Board Meeting

Thursday – February 26, 2004  
Division of Building Safety – Meridian, Idaho

**CALL TO ORDER** Chairman Minegar called the meeting to order at 9:05 am on Thursday, February 26, 2004 at the Division of Building Safety, Meridian, Idaho.

**PRESENT** Board members present included Pat Minegar, Russ Firkins, Carol Alexander, Jim Bledsoe, Steve Brown, Steve Keys, and Mike Wisdom. Present from the Division of Building Safety were Dave Munroe, Administrator; Marsi Woody, Financial Officer; Kay Manweiler, Deputy Attorney General; Ted Hogander, Plumbing Bureau Chief; Jack Rayne, Building Bureau Chief; and Shauna Wallace, Administrative Assistant and recording secretary.

Also present were Bob Corbell, HVAC, IMC, and IEC; Dave Beck, Northwest Building Operators Association; Connie Searles, Northwest Building Operators Association; Phil Petersen, Inland NW SMACNA; Collin Smith, SMW Local 66; Brent Moore, SMW Local 60; Russ Goyen, City of Idaho Falls; Lynn Transtrum, City of Pocatello; Paul Aston, Minidoka County; Dennis Davis, IDABO; John Elliott, City of Orofino; Darrel Cossaart, Ada County; Dwight Perkins, IAPMO; and Mark Hiddleston, Renewable Energy Resources and Hiddleston Drilling & Pump.

**INTRODUCTIONS** Chairman Minegar welcomed everyone in the room. Guests were asked to speak clearly for the record. Meeting attendees introduced themselves and stated their affiliation.

Steve Brown stated for the record that Minidoka County does conduct mechanical inspections.

**MINUTES OF 1/29/04** Carol Alexander requested “permission from her employee” be changed to “permission from her employer” on page five, paragraph four, line three. Jim Bledsoe requested the reference to Senator Geddes be changed to Senator Goedde on page six, paragraph one, line two. Mr. Bledsoe moved to approve the minutes of the Idaho Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning Board meeting of January 29, 2004 with these corrections. Seconded. Passed.

Chairman Minegar confirmed there were no additions to the agenda.

**NORTHWEST BUILDING OPERATORS ASSOCIATION** Connie Searles and Dave Beck presented and gave a brief overview of the NBOA’s building operator certification program, which does cover HVAC. Ms. Searles offered the training, expertise and assistance of the NBOA to the Board.

The five-day Level 1 building operator training has a full day dedicated to HVAC. The six-day Level 2 training has three full days dedicated to HVAC.

Mr. Beck told the Board the NBOA could develop classes aimed at a specific target.

In answer to Chairman Minegar’s question, Ms. Searles informed the Board the Level 1 training costs \$640 and requires five hours of continuing education every year. Level 2 training costs \$800 and requires ten hours of continuing education every year.

**LEGISLATIVE REPORT** Bob Corbell reported to the Board that the piece of legislation protecting the personal assets of board members when a board is being sued is being pulled back to be rewritten.

SB 1343 is up this afternoon. The fees and apprentice training sections of the administrative rules the Board submitted to the Legislature were removed. SB 1343 proposes to add those sections into the law, in addition to some deadline changes.

HB 756 was submitted on Tuesday morning and mandates codes by January 2005.

Russ Firkins discussed with the Board a letter written by Dennis Davis opposing HVAC legislation. Ms. Alexander stated she believed the opposition was coming from the old IDABO Board, not the new Board whom she doesn't believe had the opportunity to discuss the issues raised by Mr. Davis. Chairman Minegar didn't believe further discussion of the letter would be advantageous. Further discussion of the letter and the legislation did ensue. Chairman Minegar pointed out that because opposition is inherent to the differing interests it's very unlikely there'll be much consensus.

As discussion of code legislation began, Mr. Corbell reiterated that the code legislation did not have industry input.

It was Ms. Alexander's suggestion that rather than requiring inspectors to be certified both residentially and commercially, the legislation could be reworded to require inspectors to be certified to inspect whichever type of work they would be inspecting. Example, if inspecting residential, must be residential certified; if inspecting commercial, must be commercial certified. She felt this would be a good compromise allowing smaller jurisdictions to continue to perform their own inspections.

Dwight Perkins informed the Board that the IAPMO mechanical certification is a combined residential and commercial certification. IAPMO's combined certification is less expensive (and more comprehensive) than ICC's residential and commercial certifications combined.

Jim Bledsoe told the Board that he had spoken with Avista Gas and they had asked that the Board not refer to the old Blue Book they used to use as it is now obsolete.

Russ Goyen stated that he believed the majority of jurisdictions are already using the International Codes. The 1997 UMC is essentially a dead code as it is not being updated by ICBO. Avista Gas and Intermountain Gas have been directed by the Idaho Public Utilities Commission to use the International Fuel Gas Codes. Mr. Goyen believes the Board should not oppose the legislation naming the I Codes for use in the HVAC industry.

Steve Brown said there are still many jurisdictions using the UMC and that the International Mechanical Code is a relatively new code. The UMC is ANSI approved. The Board's job is to choose a code that will provide safety and protection to the public and be reasonable to the people that have to use it.

Mr. Perkins expressed concern that Mr. Goyen and other building officials are adamant about not allowing the Board to conduct an open analysis and review of both the International Mechanical Code and the UMC as promulgated by IAPMO to determine which is the safest code for the state of Idaho and the most user friendly.

Mr. Bledsoe said there are many people stating the International Code is a 100% code. But the city of Boise had to adopt a section of the UMC in order to inspect process piping. To say the UMC is a dead code is not entirely true.

Mr. Firkins went back to the letter signed by Mr. Davis and asked that if the Board were to leave Section 54-5021, Idaho Code as it currently stands would IDABO support SB 1343. Mr. Firkins asked that IDABO consider that and let Mr. Corbell or their individual legislators know.

Chairman Minegar ordered a break from 10:15 am to 10:30 am.

## LEGISLATION ISSUES

Mr. Corbell said that attendees keep saying this is not a Board bill, but an industry bill. This bill could not have moved forward purely as an industry bill due to issues such as civil penalties. While industry did bring the legislation forward, it was coordinated with the Board. Mr. Firkins concurred. Mr. Corbell asked the Board if there were changes they felt were necessary. Ms. Alexander had the suggested change on inspector certification; and that was also an issue for Boise city. Mr. Firkins suggested leaving Section 54-5021 as it was, which may result in less opposition.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

Jim Bledsoe moved for the Idaho Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning Board to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion personnel issues. Seconded. Passed.

Chairman Minegar reconvened the regular meeting and reported that the Board had discussed appointing Ted Hogander to be the HVAC bureau chief.

## LEGISLATION ISSUES CONTINUED

Chairman Minegar asked how the legislation would be effected if Section 54-5021 was reverted back to its original language. Mr. Corbell reported that if the language were left it would allow mechanical inspectors to be certified residential or commercial.

Ms. Alexander requested the language be changed to read, “commercial and/or residential as required.” Mr. Corbell pointed out that the and/or would then have to be defined by the state or a local entity.

Mr. Firkins moved for the Idaho Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning Board to support reverting the changes in SB 1343, Section 54-5021 back to the currently existing Section 54-5021, Idaho Code. No second.

Mr. Firkins suggested that leaving Section 54-5021 as it currently exists might lessen the opposition to SB 1343.

Mr. Corbell instructs the Board that if changes are requested the bill will go to the amending order, which will open the bill up for any changes by any legislator.

Further discussion ensued. Board consensus was to not request any changes at this time. Board members will go to committee to testify.

## INSPECTOR CERTIFICATION

Mr. Corbell reported that not very many people are in support of dual inspectors. Plumbers don’t care for the idea and the HVAC industry is concerned about having plumbing inspectors inspect their work. Mr. Brown reiterated that the trades are overlapping.

Mr. Bledsoe pointed out that dual inspections will be a reality and the industries are going to have to learn to work together. Chairman Minegar pointed out there were numerous positives to the situation. Inspectors in the outlying areas will be working with contractors they already know and have a relationship with. Creates less government and costs less too.

SUPPLIES	Shauna Wallace gave the Board a brief overview of some of the items that will need to be ordered to begin work. One item was certificates. Board consensus was to use red certificates.
IDAHO HVAC BOARD 2004 MEETING SCHEDULE	Chairman Minegar reviewed the dates for the Board to meet in 2004. Dave Munroe reported that the May 19, 2004 meeting is going to have to be changed to Thursday, May 20, 2004 and will take place in Twin Falls, Idaho. Marsi Woody asked the Board if they needed to have a meeting between this one and the May meeting due to the amount of work that needs to be done. The next Board meeting was set for Thursday, April 1, 2004 in Meridian, Idaho.
OTHER BUSINESS	<p>Mr. Bledsoe said that every time he talks to contractors the specialty contractor licensing comes up a lot. It would be possible to work it into the HVAC license if they pass the test for a specialty electrical license. There is a class scheduled for March 13, 2004 in Idaho Falls to prepare for testing.</p> <p>The Board clarified for Ted Hogander that a contractor could have a license and own the business, but would either have to be a journeyman to do the work himself or hire a journeyman to do the work.</p> <p>Mr. Munroe asked the Board whether or not they were going to acknowledge contractors licenses from other states. It was Chairman Minegar's understanding that grandfathering only applied to companies that had been conducting business in Idaho. Mr. Munroe then posed to the Board the question of how to handle a contractor from out of state who begins a job prior to July 1, 2004, which means they don't have to be licensed on that particular job, but then wants to begin the next job after July 1, 2004? Chairman Minegar said at that point the contractor would have proof of work in Idaho. Mr. Munroe wants to know how out of state contractors will be licensed if their situation does not allow them to be grandfathered in. Board consensus was to put the issue on the agenda for the next meeting.</p>
ADJOURNMENT	<p>The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 am.</p> <p>Respectfully submitted, Shauna Wallace</p>